

# ADF&G STAFF ORAL PRESENTATION ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

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SOUTHEAST ALASKA AREA  
SPORT FISHERY REGULATORY PROPOSALS  
January 11–23, 2018; Sitka



## Southeast Alaska Sport Fishery Overview RC 3 - Tab 19

Bob Chadwick  
Regional Management Coordinator  
Division of Sport Fish, Southeast Region

# Presentation Outline

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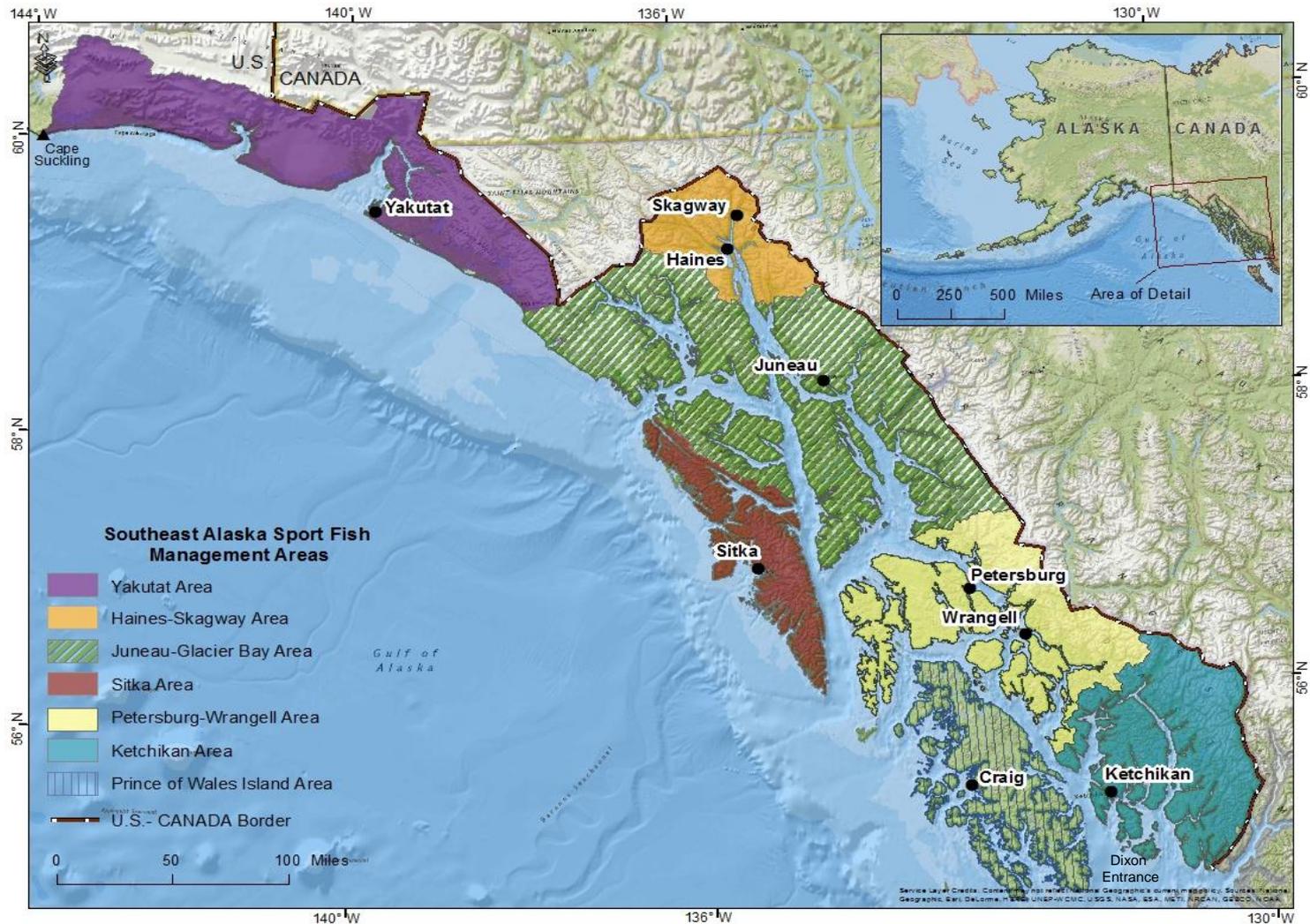
- Regional Sport Fishery Regulations
- King Salmon Sport Fishery Management
- Rockfish Sport Fishery Management

# Sport Fishing

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**“Sport fishing”** means the taking of or attempting to take for personal use, and not for sale or barter, any freshwater, marine, or anadromous fish by hook and line held in the hand or by hook and line with the line attached to a pole or rod which is held in the hand or closely attended, or by other means defined by the Board of Fisheries; (16.05.940.(31)).

# Southeast Alaska



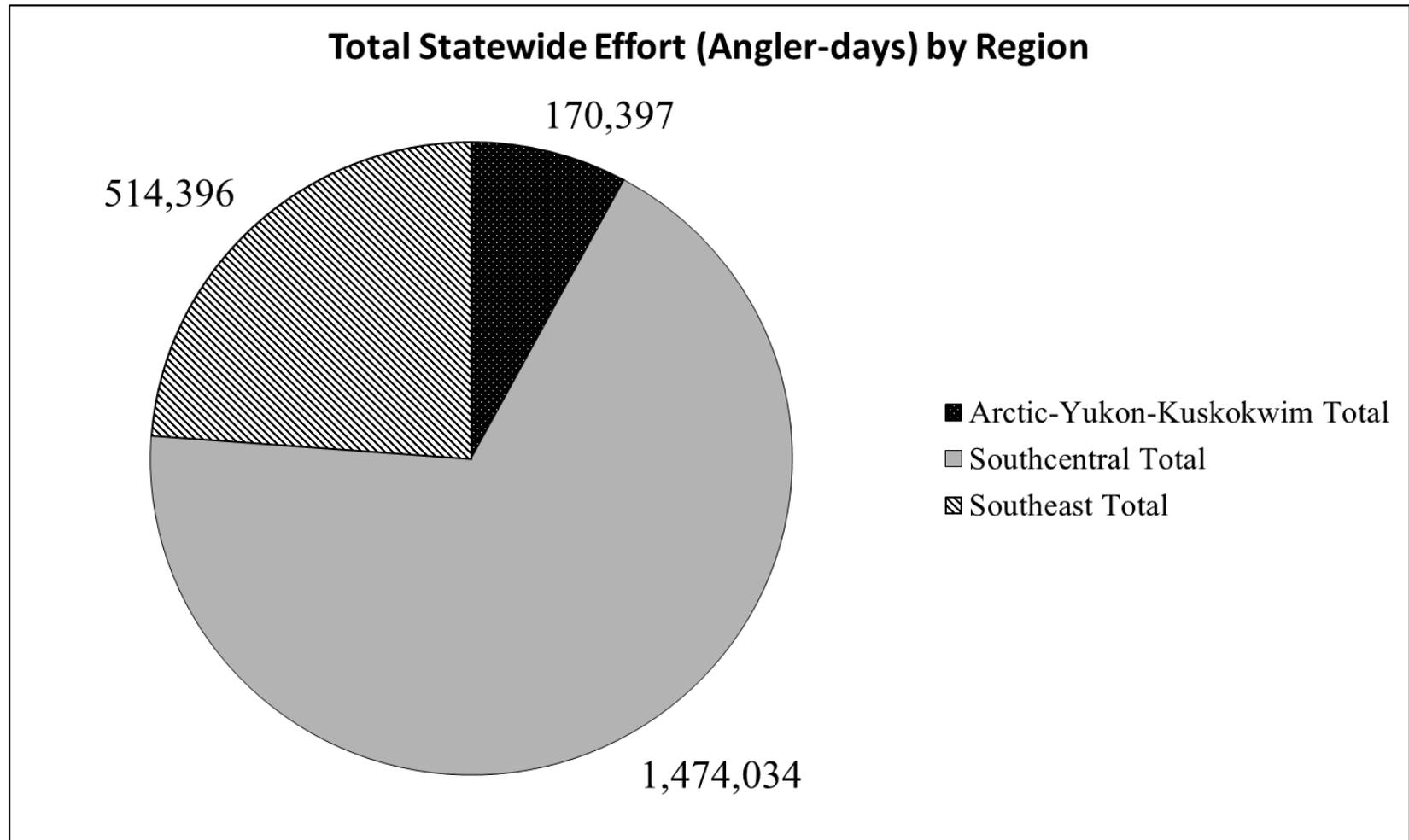
# Southeast Alaska Regional Sport Fish Regulations

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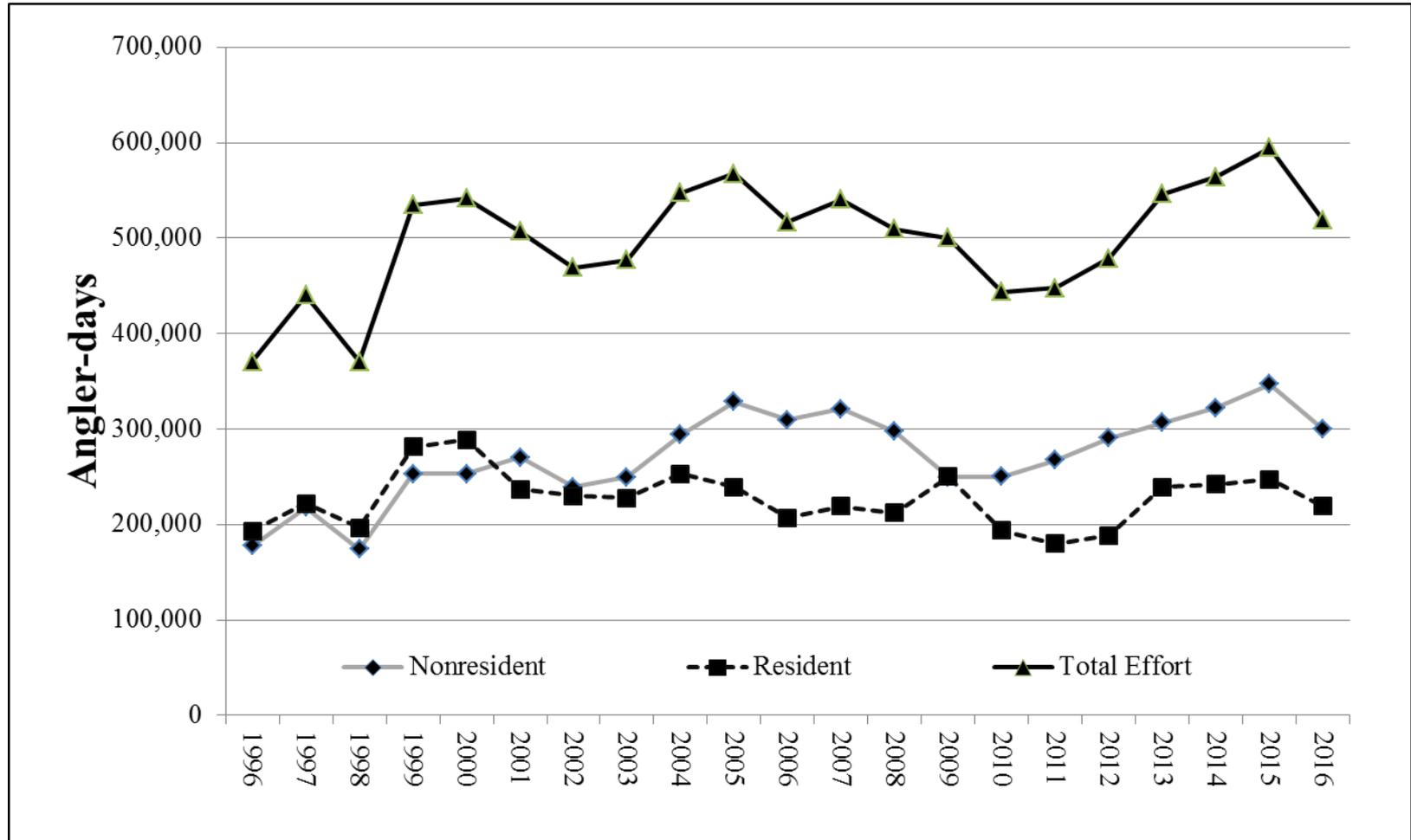
- **King salmon fishing is closed in the fresh waters of Southeast Alaska (except Yakutat Area).**
- **Bait is allowed in fresh water September 15–November 15.**
- **Sport fishing may be conducted only by the use of a single line per angler, and not more than six lines may be fished from a vessel.**
- **The maximum number of fishing lines that may be fished from a vessel engaged in sport fishing charter activities is equal to the number of paying clients on board the vessel.**
- **The king salmon, demersal shelf rockfish, and lingcod sport fisheries are managed for allocations.**

# Southeast Alaska and Statewide Effort — Average Number of Angler-days 2007–2016

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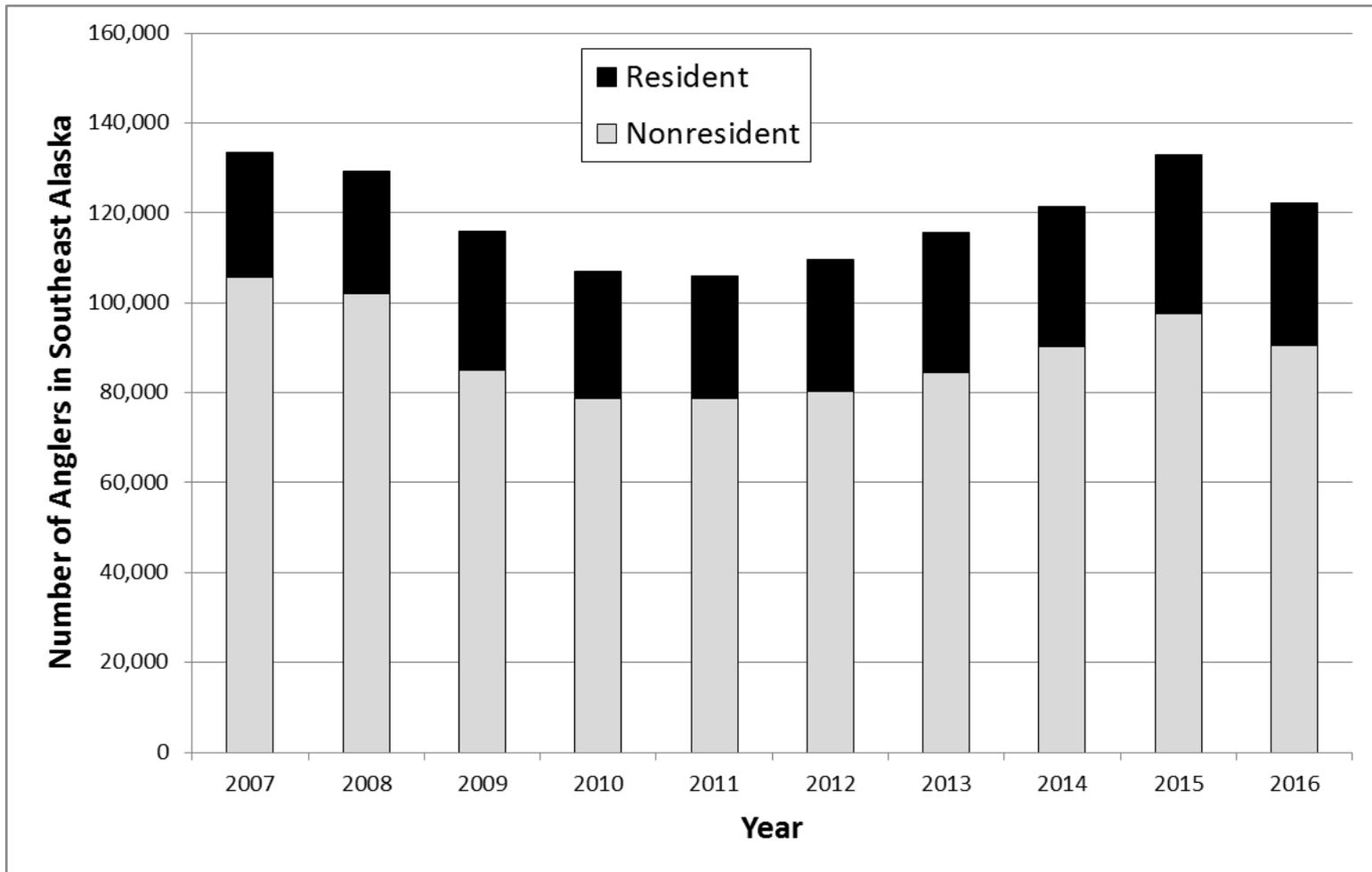


# Southeast Alaska Sport Fishery Effort by Residency Number of Angler-days 1996–2016

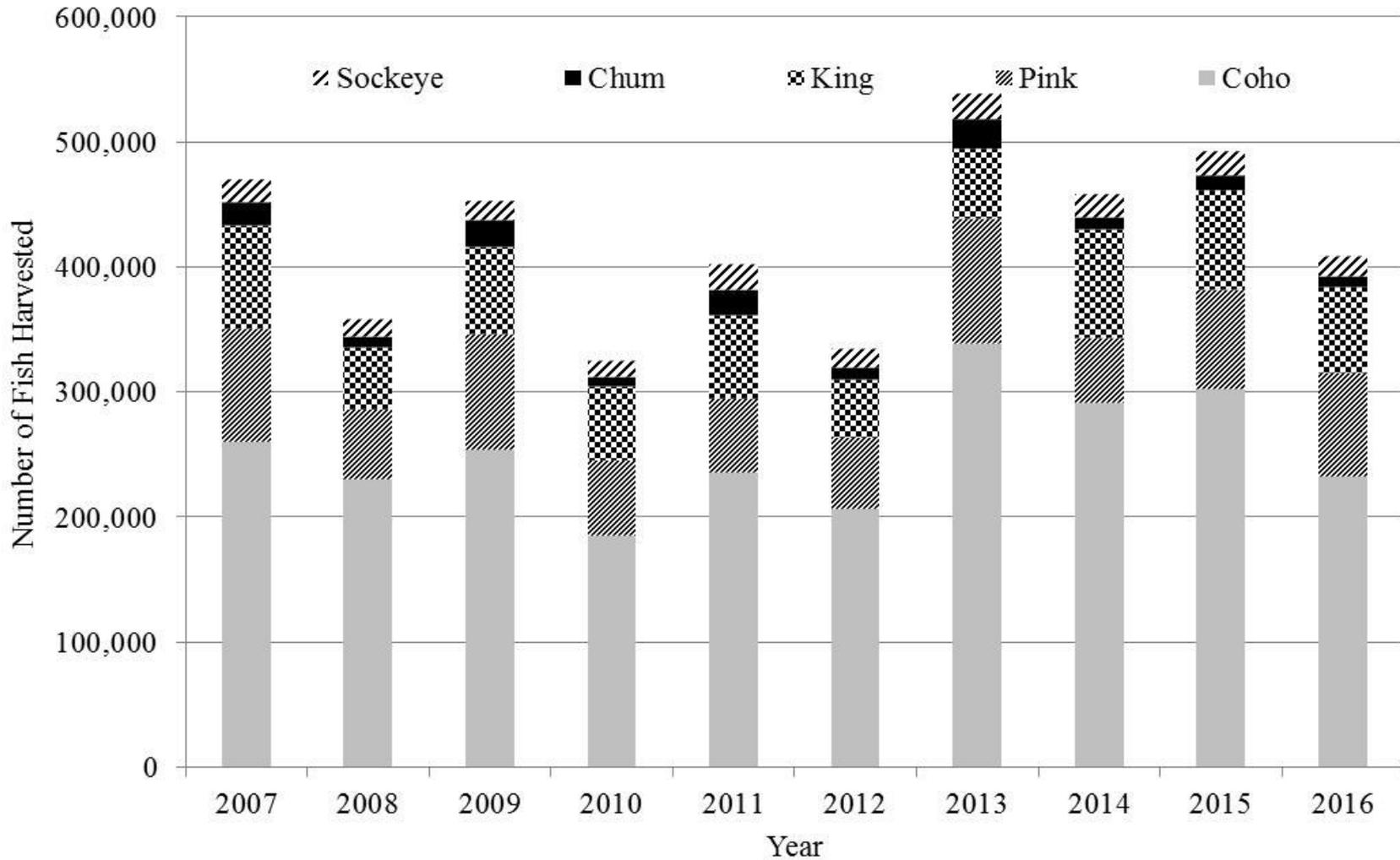


# Southeast Alaska and Statewide Effort – Number of Anglers 2007–2016

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# Southeast Salmon Sport Harvest



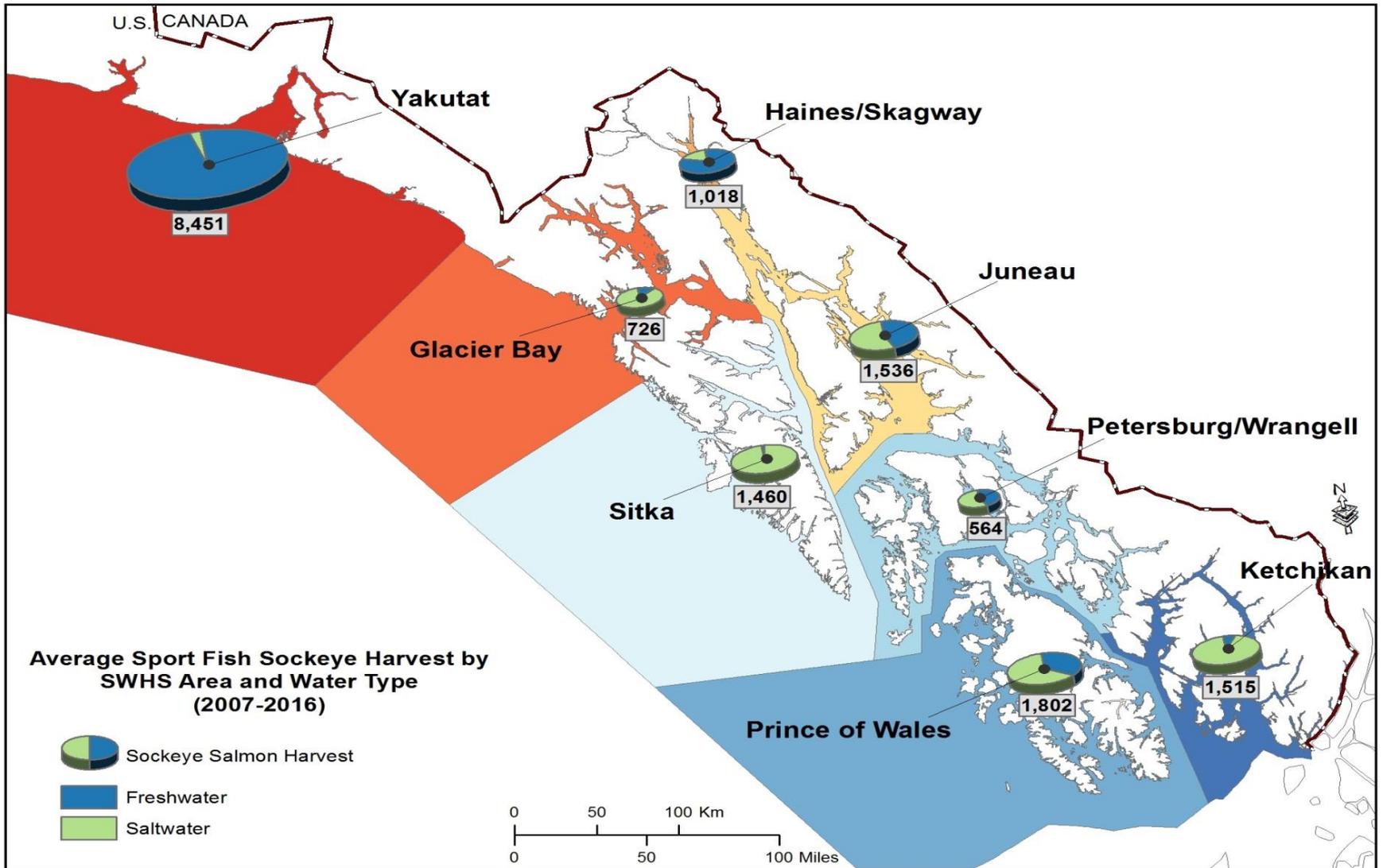
# Sockeye Salmon Proposals

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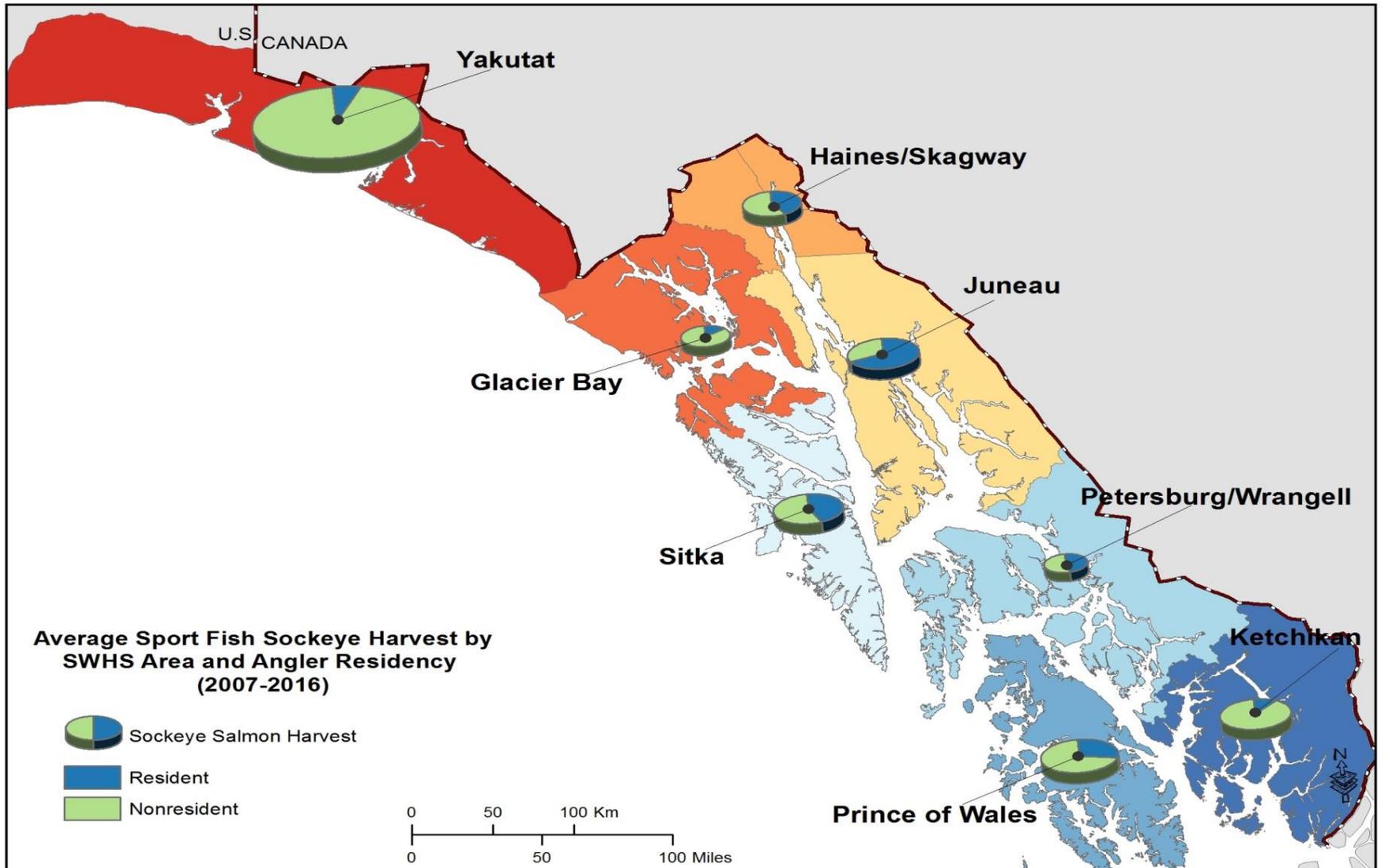
- 136
- 195
- 196
- 204



# Southeast Sockeye Salmon Sport Harvest



# Southeast Sockeye Salmon Sport Harvest



# King Salmon Proposals

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- 132
- 137
- 138
- 148
- 197



# King Salmon Management

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- General Harvest Ceiling (All-Gear Harvest Limit)  
Regs - *5 AAC 29.060*
- Gear-specific allocations - *5 AAC 29.060*
  - Set gillnet fishery: 1,000 king salmon
  - Purse seine fishery: 4.3% of the annual harvest ceiling
  - Drift gillnet fishery: 2.9% of the annual harvest ceiling
  - After the net fisheries allocation is subtracted from the annual harvest ceiling, the remaining harvest ceiling is allocated 80% troll and 20% sport

# King Salmon Management

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- Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan
  - *5 AAC 47.055*
    - Reinforces general harvest ceiling regulations by adopting the 20% sport allocation as a management objective

# Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan - Objectives

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1. Attain an average harvest of 20% of the annual harvest ceiling specified by the Pacific Salmon Commission, after the subtraction of the commercial net allocation specified in 5 AAC 29.060 from the harvest ceiling;
2. Allow uninterrupted marine sport fishing for king salmon, while not exceeding the sport fishery harvest ceiling;
3. Minimize restrictions on residents;
4. Provide stability to the sport fishery by eliminating inseason regulatory changes, except those needed for conservation purposes.

# Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan - Regulations

Abundance Index	Bag Limit		Nonresident Annual Limit	Two rods October 1 - March 31
	Resident	Nonresident		
2.1 and above	3	1 or 2 <sup>a</sup>	6	All Anglers
1.76 to 2.0	3	1 or 2 <sup>b</sup>	5 or 6	All Anglers
1.51 to 1.75	3	1 or 2 <sup>b</sup>	4 or 5	All Anglers
1.21 to 1.5	2	1	3	Resident Anglers
1.2 and below	1	1	3 to 1 <sup>c</sup>	Resident Anglers
1.1 and below	1	1	3 to 1 <sup>d</sup>	Resident Anglers
Less than 1.0 <sup>e</sup>	1	1	3 to 1 <sup>d</sup>	Resident Anglers

<sup>a</sup>Nonresident bag limit of 2 fish in May and June and one fish remainder of the year.

<sup>b</sup>Nonresident bag limit of 2 fish in May and one fish remainder of the year.

<sup>c</sup>Nonresident anglers harvest limit of 3 fish January 1–June 30, 2 fish July 1–July 15, and 1 fish July 16–December 31.

<sup>d</sup>Nonresident anglers harvest limit of 3 fish January 1–June 30, and 1 fish July 1–December 31.

<sup>e</sup>Additional restrictions at abundance indexes below 1.0 may include reduced fishing times, 48 inch limit for nonresidents and no retention periods.

# 2015

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## AI = 2.57 (January 1–June 30)

Resident	3 fish bag limit and possession limit
Nonresident	2 fish bag limit in May and June with a 1 fish bag limit the remainder of the year. 3 fish annual limit
All Anglers	2 rods from October through March.

## AI = 1.45 (July 1–December 31)

Resident	1 fish bag limit and possession limit 2 rods from October through March.
Nonresident	1 fish bag limit and possession limit 3 fish annual limit

# 2016

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AI = 2.06

## Resident

3 fish bag limit and possession limit

## Nonresident

2 fish bag and possession limit in May and June and

1 fish bag and possession for the remainder of the year

3 fish annual limit

## All Anglers

2 rods from October through March for all anglers.

# 2017

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AI = 1.27

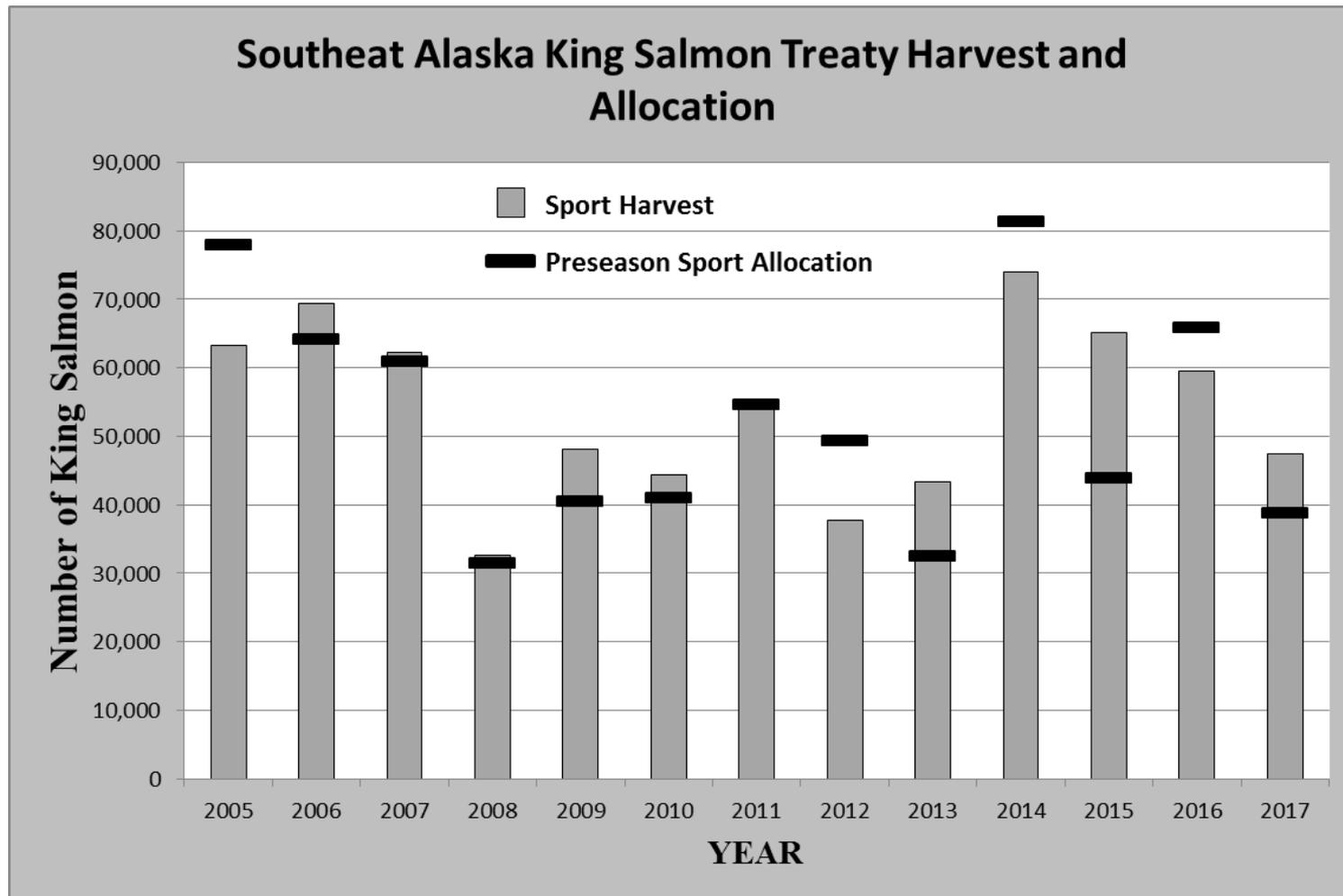
## Resident

1 fish bag limit and possession limit  
2 rods from October through March.

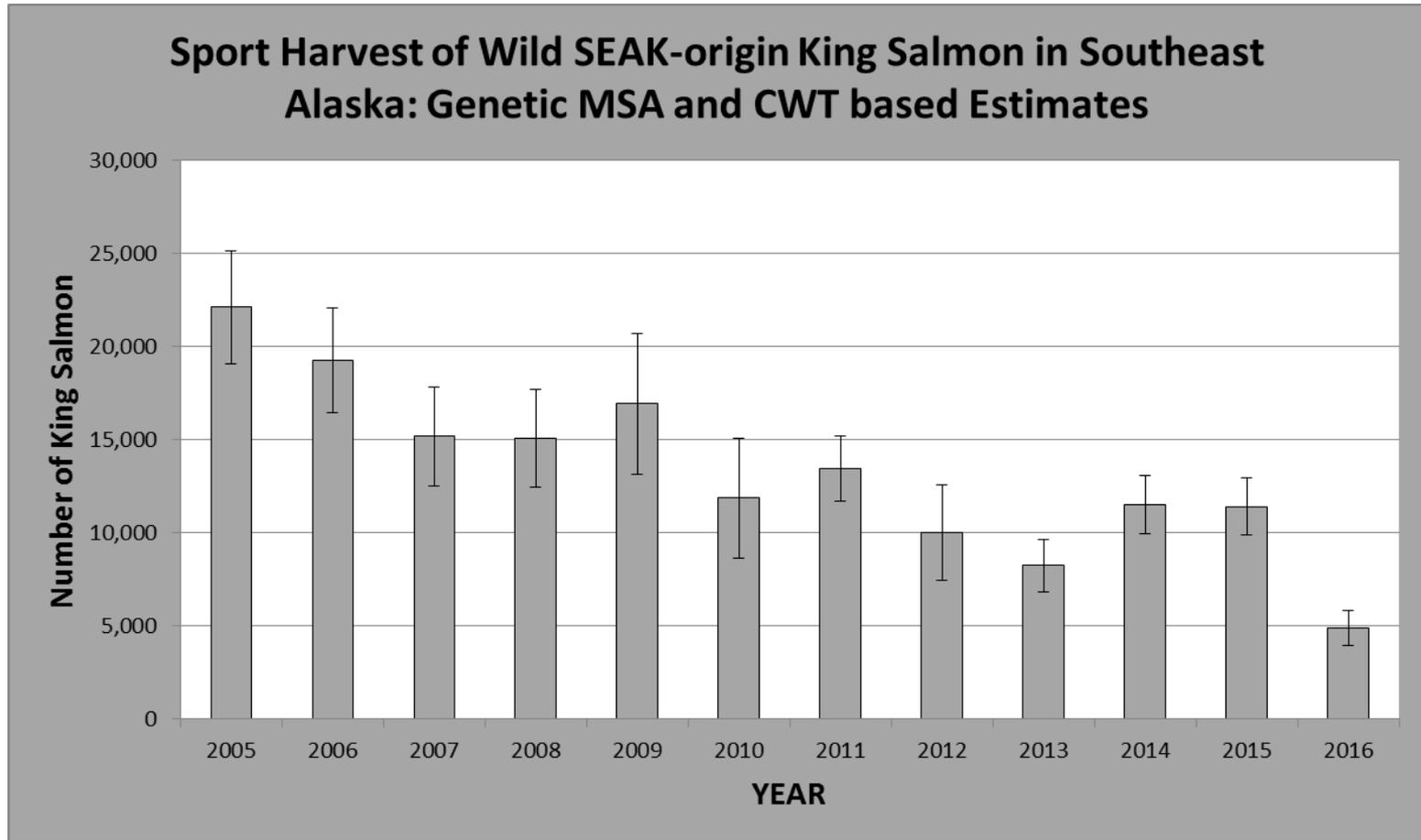
## Nonresident

1 fish bag limit and possession limit  
3 fish annual limit

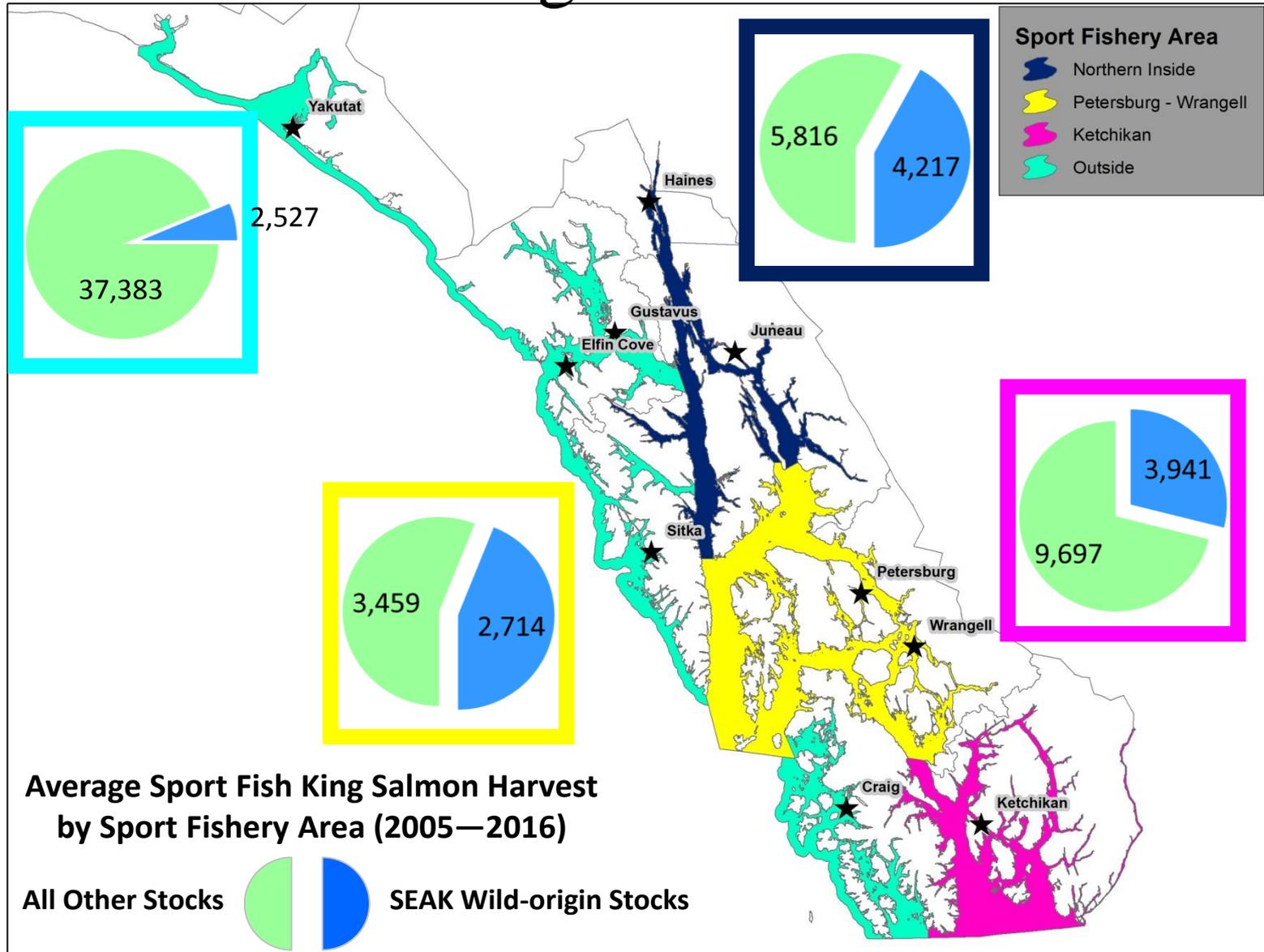
# King Salmon Management-Performance



# Alaska Wild King Salmon Harvest

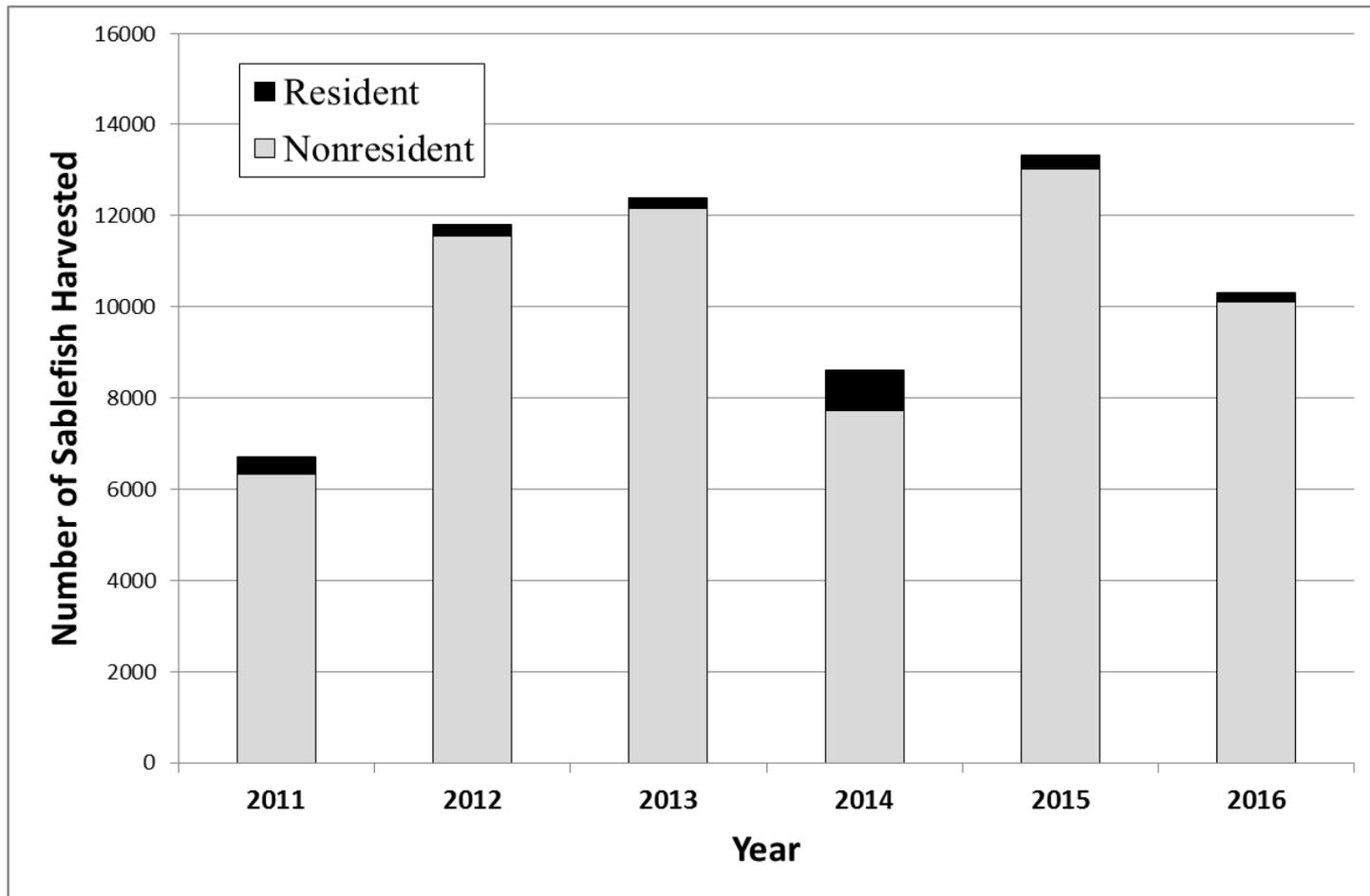


# Alaska Wild King Salmon Harvest



# Sablefish Harvest in Southeast Alaska

- Proposal 116.



# Rockfish Proposals

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## Pelagic Rockfish:

- 127
- 128



## Nonpelagic Rockfish:

- 125
- 126



# Rockfish Management

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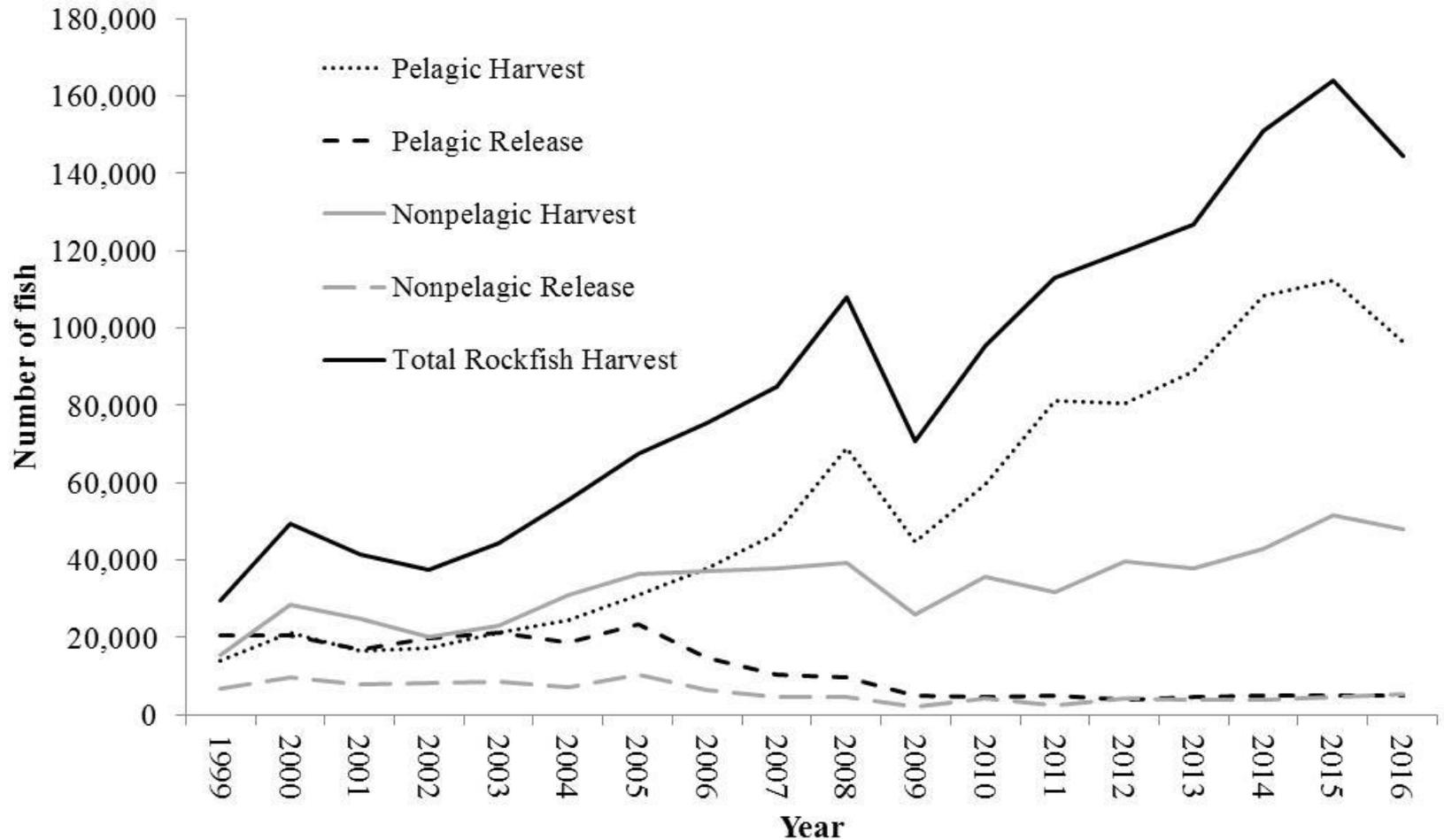
- **Pelagic Rockfish**

- Species include: dark, dusky, widow, yellowtail, black, and blue rockfish.

- **Nonpelagic Rockfish**

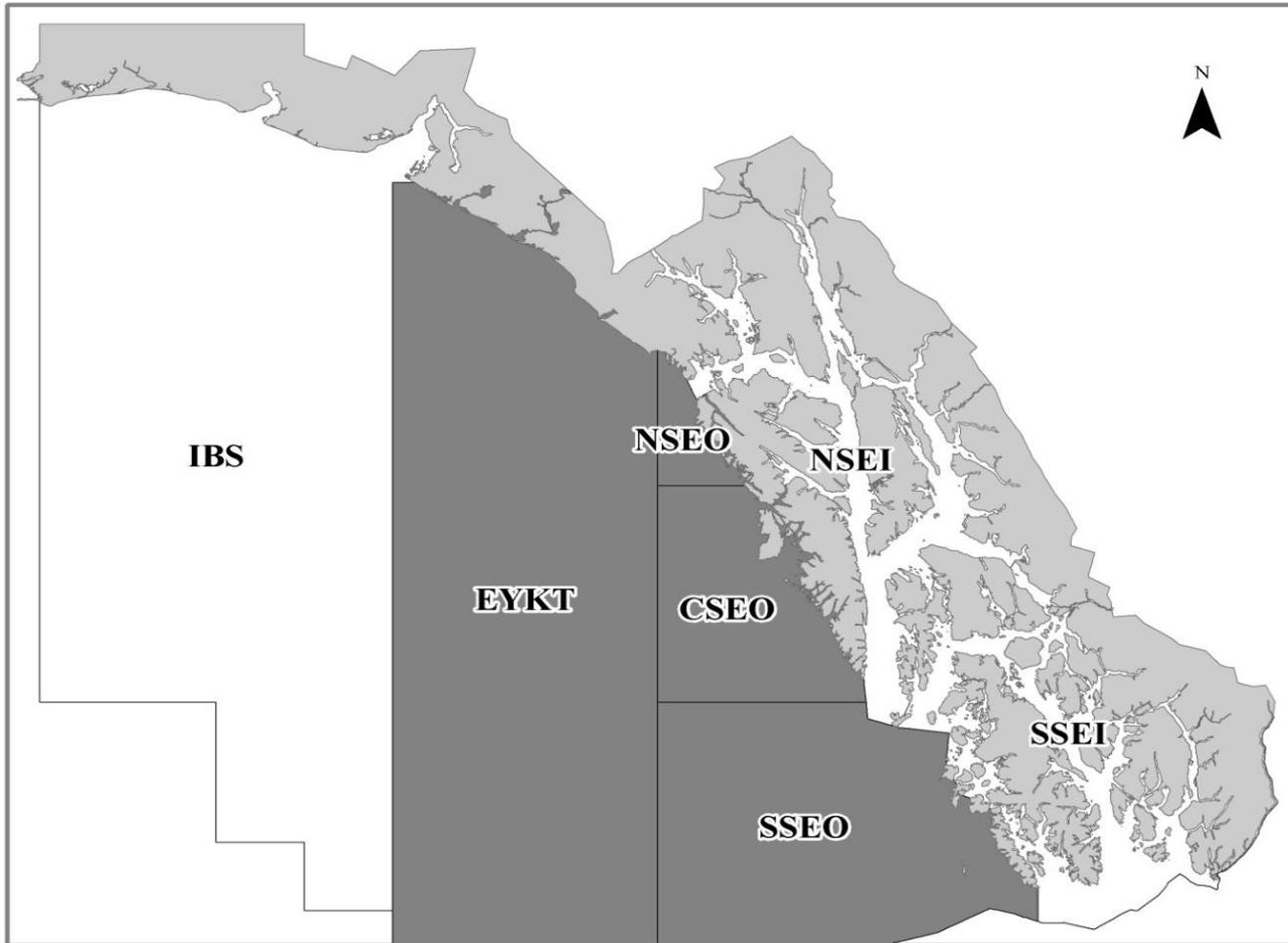
- Includes all rockfish species in the genus *Sebastes* that are not defined as pelagic rockfish.
  - Demersal shelf rockfish (DSR) (canary, China, copper, quillback, rosethorn, tiger and yelloweye rockfish)
  - Other nonpelagic rockfish (all others not defined as DSR)

# Rockfish Harvest



# Rockfish Management

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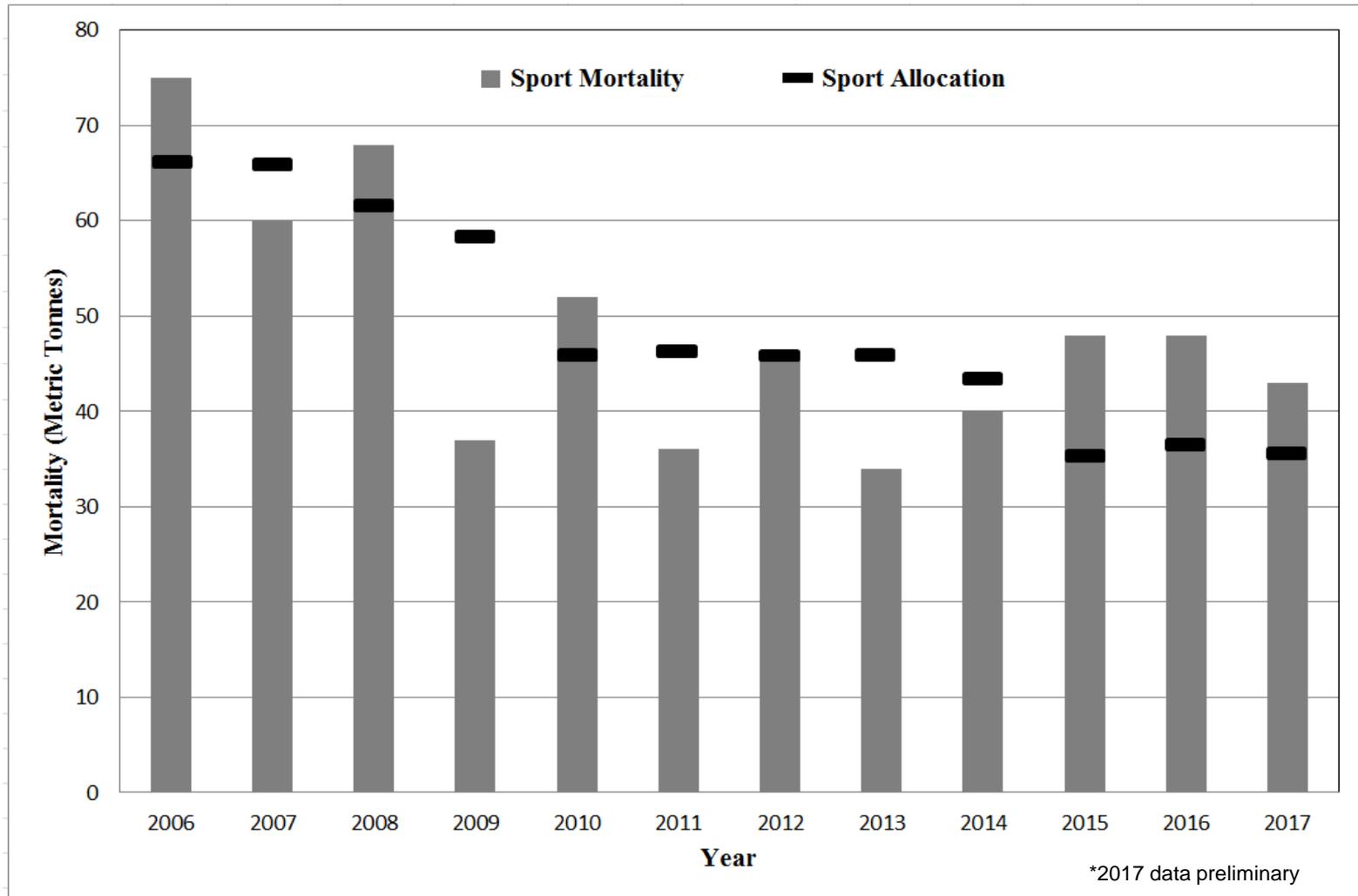
# Rockfish Management

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To keep the sport fishery within its allocation, the board outlined a series of eight management measures that may be implemented by emergency order:

1. reduce bag and possession limits for nonresident anglers;
2. retention of all nonpelagic rockfish caught by a nonresident angler is required until the nonresident bag limit is reached;
3. charter operators and crewmembers may not retain nonpelagic rockfish while clients are on board the vessel;
4. annual limits for nonpelagic rockfish for nonresident anglers;
5. reduce the bag and possession limits for resident anglers;
6. retention of all nonpelagic rockfish caught by a resident angler is required until the resident angler's bag limit is reached;
7. annual limits for nonpelagic rockfish for resident anglers; and
8. time and area closures.

# Southeast Outside Subdistrict Sport Total Mortality and Allocation of Demersal Shelf Rockfish



# Release at Depth of Rockfish

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# Release at Depth of Rockfish



# Release at Depth of Rockfish



# Release at Depth of Rockfish



Rockfish showing signs of barotrauma

Rockfish caught in deep water often sustain injuries — referred to as barotrauma — caused by rapid decompression and expansion of gases in the swim bladder.



## Conserving ROCKFISH of ALASKA

### Deepwater Release

#### Deepwater Release Methods

Rockfish are most likely to survive when released quickly at depth by anglers using the following steps:

##### Step 1:

- Make sure your release device is ready — rockfish are most likely to survive when time at the surface is minimized. With practice, rockfish can be released within two minutes of reaching the surface.



- Reel the fish up as quickly as possible. After unhooking it, hook the release device through the soft tissue on the jaw. Make sure the hook does not have a barb. Release the anti-reverse on the reel so line can spool out freely.



##### Step 2:

- Swing the fish slightly to one side and let go of the jig. Let line out as the weight pulls the fish back to the bottom. When the jig hits bottom (or 100 feet in depth), lock the reel and give a hard tug to release the fish.



(The device pictured is homemade. Commercially manufactured devices are available.)

#### PREVENTION

- **Avoid catching unwanted rockfish.**  
When targeting other species, such as halibut or lingcod, rockfish bycatch can be greatly reduced by keeping jigs and bait 10 to 15 feet off the bottom. This has little or no effect on halibut and lingcod catch rates. Move to a different area if you are catching rockfish unintentionally.
- **Target other species first.**  
To harvest rockfish as part of a mixed bag, target other species first. This will allow you to retain any incidental rockfish caught as part of your limit, and minimize the number of rockfish released.
- **Avoid excessive rockfish harvests.**  
Rockfish have a freezer life of about four months, so harvest only what you are likely to eat in the near future.
- **Use release-friendly tackle.**  
When fishing with bait, use a single circle hook. Circle hooks are less likely to cause injury by being deeply swallowed, increasing the chances of survival for released fish.

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